

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04331 262203Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 SS-15 /052 W  
-----262206Z 129473 /66

R 261235Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2173

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4331

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: BTIO, IN  
SUBJECT: MARUTI

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT INSTITUTING AN INQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF MARUTI, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 24 THAT THIS ISSUE WAS INCLUDED IN A MEMORANDUM GIVEN HIM BY ABOUT 125 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. HE STATED THAT THE QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WAS VINDICTIVE OR REVENGEFUL.

2. DURING THE CAMPAIGN THE JANATA HAD CHARGED THAT MARUTI RECEIVED PAYMENT OF COMMISSIONS AMOUNTING TO THE EQUIVALENT OF DOLLARS 188,235 IN FOREIGN CURRENCY FROM THE WEST GERMAN FIRM DEMAG. THIS WAS THE RESULT OF A SALE OF CRANES TO THE ONGC AND THE JANATA CHARGED THAT MARUTI USED ITS INFLUENCE TO MAKE THE ONGC ACCEPT A HIGHER PRICE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, LOWER BIDS WERE MADE BY AN AMERICAN AND FRENCH FIRM. IN ADDITION, THE JANATA ALLEGED THAT MARUTI PURCHASED AND SOLD AT A SIZABLE PROFIT TO THE ONGC 12 TRUCKS FROM WEST GERMANY AND 12 TRUCKS FROM INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER. THE ONGC IS ALLEGED TO HAVE DECIDED ON MINISTERIAL INTERVENTION TO ACCEPT THE TENDER SUBMITTED BY MARUTI EVEN THOUGH IT WAS TWICE AS HIGH AS THE NEXT LOWEST TENDER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04331 262203Z

3. ALSO THE JANATA CHARGED THAT STATE GOVERNMENTS WERE INDUCED TO PURCHASE PIPER PLANES THROUGH MARUTI. THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE RESPONDED THAT NO LICENSE FROM THE IMPORT OF PIPER PLANES WAS ISSUED TO ANY STATE GOVERNMENT OR BUSINESS HOUSE.

4. COMMENT: THE RUMORS ARE THAT MARUTI WILL BE DISSOLVED OR NATIONALIZED, BUT WE OF COURSE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY THIS. CERTAINLY THE PROSPECTS FOR SALES OF PIPER AIRCRAFT AND ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER TRUCKS ARE DIM. SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE04331  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770105-0185  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaaqbb.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** cb013ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2986697  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARUTI  
**TAGS:** BTIO, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/cb013ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009